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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/622,087	10/03/2000	Rob Pieterse	00575/LH	6649

7590 12/23/2003

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EXAMINER	
LAM, DANIEL K	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2667	7

DATE MAILED: 12/23/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/622,087	PIETERSE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Daniel K Lam	2667	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *03 October 2000*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-10* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-5 and 8-10* is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *6 and 7* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because an abstract should be in narrative form and should not be a reproduction of a claim or part of a claim. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-5 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,241,542 issued to Natarajan et al. in view of U. S. Pat. No. 5,657,317 issued to Mahany et al.

Regarding claims 1 and 10, Natarajan et al. discloses a method and a system for transmitting data from several first stations to a second station:

- The first and second stations each comprising at least a transmitter, a receiver, a control unit, and a clock (claim 10). See fig. 3 references 54 and 62 and col. 3, line 7-21.

And the method comprising:

- Transmitting, in a selection time slot of the time window, selection messages from the second station to selected first stations (see fig. 4 references AH and BH, and col. 4, lines 39-53, and col. 5, lines 4-19).
- Transmitting, in response time slots of the time window, data from selected first stations to the second station (claim 1); and transmitting data as a function of selection messages transmitted by the second station (claim 10). See fig. 4 reference BH, Header for period B, and col. 4, lines 34-35.
- Characterized by transmitting, in a single selection time slot, the selection messages and by deactivating, by each first station, its receiver if no respective selection message has been transmitted (claim 1); and the second station is arranged for consecutively transmitting the selection messages, and that the first stations are arranged for deactivating their receivers in response to the absence of a corresponding selection message (claim 10). See fig. 8A references 86, 90, and 94, and col. 8, lines 14-39.

However, Natarajan et al. does not disclose the limitation of transmitting, in a synchronization time slot of a time window, a synchronization message from the second station to the first stations (claim 1); nor does he disclose the limitation that the first stations being arranged for synchronizing their clocks based on a synchronization message transmitted by the second station (claim 10).

Mahany et al. discloses a frame structure having a synchronization slot (see fig. 2 reference 201, SYNC and col. 15, line 66 to col. 16, line 2) for sending synchronization message to synchronize remote and base stations.
Therefore, it would have been obvious to those having ordinary skill in the art to include a synchronization slot for transmitting synchronization message from the second station to the first stations so that the constituents of the network can be synchronized as taught by Mahany et al. (see col. 16, lines 2-23).

Regarding claim 2, in addition to disclose the limitation regarding claim 1, Natarajan et al. further discloses the deactivation takes place at the end of the selection time slot (see fig. 8A reference SLEEP_DURATION, and col. 8, lines 14-39; fig. 8B reference SLEEP_DURATION, and col. 8, line 47 to col. 9, line 6).

Regarding claims 3 and 4, in addition to disclose the limitation regarding claim 1, Natarajan et al. further discloses the selection messages are transmitted in a predetermined sequence and the deactivation takes place based on the sequence; and several sequences are applied and a sequence indication of the sequence to be applied in specific time window is transmitted by the second station in the synchronization time slot (see fig. 8A reference 84 and RLIST, and col. 8, lines 26-29, and fig. 8B reference 100 and TLIST, and col. 8, lines 61-64).

Regarding claim 5, in addition to disclose the limitation regarding any one of claims 1 to 4, Natarajan et al. further discloses the selection message each contain a time indication of the response slots (see fig. 8A references 88 and My Position in RLIST, and col. 8, line 67 to col. 9, line 32-36; and fig. 8B references 104 and My Position in TLIST, and col. 8, line 67 to col. 9, line 4).

Regarding claim 8, in addition to disclose the limitation regarding any one of claims 1 to 4, Natarajan et al. further discloses the transmitter of each first station is activated only during respective response time slot (see fig. 8B references 108 and 110, and col. 9, lines 2-4).

Regarding claim 9, in addition to disclose the limitation regarding any one of claims 1 to 4, Mahany et al. further discloses the duration of a current time window is transmitted to the first stations by the second station in the synchronization time slot (see col. 15, lines 35-39).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 6 and 7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Contact Information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel K. Lam whose telephone number is (703) 305-8605. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

   If attempt to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chi Pham can be reached on (703) 305-4378. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9314.

   Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

DKL
Dec 9, 2003

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because an abstract should be in narrative form and should not be a reproduction of a claim or part of a claim. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

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3. Claims 1-5 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,241,542 issued to Natarajan et al. in view of U. S. Pat. No. 5,657,317 issued to Mahany et al.

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- The first and second stations each comprising at least a transmitter, a receiver, a control unit, and a clock (claim 10). See fig. 3 references 54 and 62 and col. 3, line 7-21.

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Dec 9, 2003

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